

Remarks

Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,740,010 (Moskovitz). Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,135,475 (Brown et al). Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al in view of United States Patent No. 4,493,488 (Panaia et al). Claims 15 to 20 have been objected to for formal reasons, i.e. the word “other” is missing between the words “each” and “into”. Claims 1 to 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, i.e. the term “the ground” lacks antecedent basis. The Drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to illustrate every feature of the invention specified in the claims, i.e. the spring clip biasing the tension rod means to the extended position must be shown.

The claims of the application have been amended to overcome the objections of the Examiner and to better define the invention in light of the cited prior art. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to provide an antecedent for the term “the ground”. Claim 15 has been amended to include the word “other” between the words “each” and “into”. Claims 3, 9 and 12 have been amended to include the features of claim 1, and accordingly are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify that the tension rod extends between lower surfaces of the first and second supports, not between the first and second frames, as in the cited prior art references of Moskovitz and Brown et al. Applicant believes Claim 15 already clearly defines this arrangement. The hinge means and the tension rod means (or first and second links) combine to pivotally connect the first and second supports together providing both a pivotable joint and a force-distributing link. The devices disclosed in Moskovitz and Brown et al include a separate brace, i.e. connecting member 46 in Brown et al, and shelf members 45 and 46, extending between the side frame members (not the supports that make up the supporting platform, e.g. seat), which are remote from the first and second supports. The remote braces require additional steps to position them in the use position and to position them in the folded position. Moreover, these steps must be carried out underneath the folding supports in a very awkward position, particularly for those requiring mobility aids. The present invention eliminates the need for the

separate braces in remote hidden locations by providing a novel hinge/tension rod structure between the ends of the folding platforms, which can be easily positioned and folded in a single step.

Applicant believes the spring clip, indicated by reference numeral 61, is illustrated in Figures 2, 6 and 8. Applicant can provide additional Figures to illustrate the spring clip 61 more clearly, if necessary.

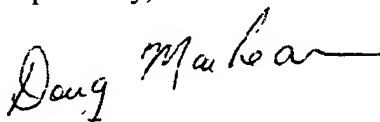
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No: 50-2810.

Please associate this application with Customer No: 24949.

Respectfully,



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